

Listing of Claims:

1. (cancelled)
2. (cancelled)
3. (cancelled)
4. (cancelled)
5. (cancelled)
6. (cancelled)
8. (cancelled)
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12. (cancelled)
13. (cancelled)
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19. (cancelled)

20. (cancelled)

21. (cancelled)

22. (cancelled)

23. (cancelled)

24. (cancelled)

25. (cancelled)

26. (cancelled)

27. (cancelled)

28. (currently amended) A digital rights source for encoding a digital rights key, the digital rights key comprising permission information and a signature, the digital rights source comprising:

a digital signature calculation block for calculating a digital signature using at least the permission information; and

an assembler operatively coupled to the digital signature calculation block to assemble at least one digital rights key using both the calculated digital signature and the permission information, and wherein the assembler comprises an XML encoder to add XML tags surrounding the permission information and to add XML tags surrounding the calculated digital signature when assembling the at least one digital rights key.

29. (previously presented) A digital rights source according to claim 28,

wherein the digital rights source receives a security parameter index; and

wherein the digital rights source further comprises a selector for selecting a security parameter index among a plurality of security parameter indexes; and

wherein the digital signature calculation block is operatively coupled to the selector to receive the selected security parameter index and to calculate a digital signature using a security algorithm chosen based on the selected security parameter index.

30. (previously presented) A digital rights source according to claim 29,

wherein the permission information of the digital rights key further comprises a destination identifier; and

wherein the assembler assembles the digital rights key using at least the destination identifier.

31. (currently amended) A digital rights source according to claim 30,

wherein the permission information of the digital rights key further comprises a type designation selected from the group consisting of element and network; and

wherein the assembler assembles the digital rights key using at least the type designation.

32. (previously presented) A digital rights source according to claim 31,

wherein the permission information of the digital rights key further comprises a feature ID and a number of feature units; and

wherein the assembler assembles the digital rights key using at least the feature ID and a number of feature units.

33. (previously presented) A digital rights source according to claim 28,

wherein the digital rights key has permission information in clear text; and

wherein the assembler assembles the digital rights key using at least the clear text permission information; and

wherein the digital signature calculation block calculates the digital signature using at least the clear text permission information.

34. (previously presented) The digital rights key encoded by the digital rights source of claim 28.

35. (previously presented) A digital rights client for decoding the digital rights key encoded by the digital rights source of claim 28.

36. (currently amended) A method of encoding a digital rights key, the digital rights key comprising permission information and a signature, the method comprising the steps of:

calculating a digital signature using at least the permission information;

assembling at least one digital rights key using both the calculated digital signature and the permission information; and

XML encoding the calculated digital signature and the permission information by adding XML tags surrounding the permission information and by adding XML tags surrounding the calculated digital signature when assembling the at least one digital rights key.

37. (previously presented) A method according to claim 36, further comprising the steps of:

selecting a security parameter index among a plurality of security parameter indexes; and

calculating the digital signature using a security algorithm chosen based on the selected security parameter index.

38. (previously presented) A method according to claim 37,

wherein the permission information of the digital rights key further comprises a destination identifier; and

wherein the method further comprises the step of assembling the digital rights key using at least the destination identifier.

39. (currently amended) A method according to claim 38,

wherein the permission information of the digital rights key further comprises a type designation selected from the group consisting of element and network; and

wherein the method further comprises the step of assembling the digital rights key using at least the type designation.

40. (previously presented) A method according to claim 39,

wherein the permission information of the digital rights key further comprises a feature ID and a number of feature units; and

wherein the method further comprises the step of assembling the digital rights key using at least the feature ID and a number of feature units.

41. (previously presented) A method according to claim 36,

wherein the digital rights key has permission information in clear text;

wherein the method further comprises the step of assembling the digital rights key using at least the clear text permission information; and

wherein the method further comprises the step of calculating the digital signature using at least the clear text permission information.

42. (previously presented) The digital rights key encoded by the method of encoding of claim 36.

43. (previously presented) A method of decoding the digital rights key encoded by the method of encoding of claim 36.

44. (new) A digital rights source according to claim 28, wherein the assembler parses together multiple digital rights keys in XML.
45. (new) A method according to claim 36, wherein said step of assembling parses together multiple digital rights keys in XML.